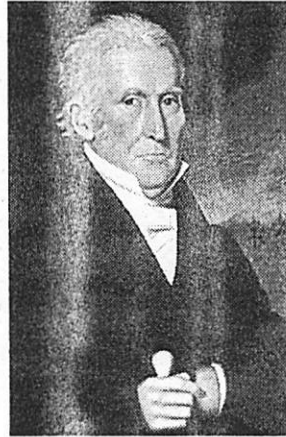


# Alden Roots: Major Judah Alden

*John and Priscilla Alden had ten children—eight of whom had heirs. Their descendants have helped to build America for fourteen generations—and counting. An occasional series.*

After Pilgrim John Alden himself, possibly the most celebrated Alden to spring directly from the Duxbury Alden family was Major Judah Alden (1750-1845). Born in the old Alden house, the son of Briggs and Mercy Wadsworth Alden, Judah Alden was one of four brothers who answered his country's call, on May 1, 1775. He had been an Ensign and clerk in Duxbury's Minuteman Company since 1773. He served in Colonel Theophilus Cotton's regiment and was present on Dorchester Heights in 1776 during the Siege of Boston. Judah Alden was commissioned ensign in Cotton's regiment, May 27, 1775; made second lieutenant in July, 1775; lieutenant in Colonel Bailey's regiment in 1776, and captain on January 1, 1777. He was confirmed as such by Congress, September 6, 1779. He was in the Continental service (Second Massachusetts Regiment) until November, 1783. At the close of the war he received the brevet of major. Major Alden served under General Washington and numerous examples of their congenial correspondence survive today.



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He was a member of the Massachusetts Society of The Cincinnati, of which he was vice-president from 1825 to 1829, and president from 1829 until his death.

On his return from service, Major Judah became a prosperous local merchant. He built Duxbury's first general store on the corner of Alden and Tremont streets in 1784, and a new house (now owned by the Duxbury Art Complex) about 1790. The store building was later moved across Tremont Street and is now a private home.

The accompanying sketch was made by General Thaddeus Kosciuszko at Valley Forge. There is a tradition that when General Lafayette, on his visit to Boston in 1825, first saw Major Alden, he exclaimed, "Alden, how are you? I know you by your nose!"

## Building codes available

Copies of the Massachusetts Building code, seventh edition, effective Jan. 1 are available at the Duxbury Free Library. We have the one and

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